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BOOK REVIEWS

Selected Letters of Cicero. By FRANK FROST ABBOTT, Professor of Latin in the University of Chicago. Ginn & Co.

ONE examines and uses this book with ever-increasing pleasure, becoming more and more convinced that he has at last been given an entirely adequate college edition of the letters. Nor is this surprising when one considers the peculiar fitness of the editor for his task. This book is not the result of a hurried preparation, but brings together the results of long investigation in the two fields which must most be worked by students of the letters — the history of the times, and colloquial language. To this must be added that the work is carried out with rare judgment in every respect, both as to what should be included or excluded and as to relative values.

The letters evidently afford the best means of studying the life and character of Cicero himself, and the best center from which to study the political history of the most interesting period of Rome's development. It is with full appreciation of their value from both points of view that the editor has approached his task. He is known to believe that for these reasons and because of their greater interest the letters might advantageously be substituted for the orations in preparatory work; though many teachers would question the advisability of forcing upon students, at a time when their attention must be so fully occupied with matters of language, the necessity of studying so minutely the details of so many years of Cicero's life. However this may be, this book is prepared with an eye single to the needs of the college student above the freshman class, who unquestionably ought to read the letters. Experience shows that it is admirably adapted to their needs.

In his choice of letters the editor has aimed at selecting the hundred which should best represent the whole, including those which throw light upon Cicero's private life and relations with his friends, and those which present an outline of his public life and of his times,

The general introduction deals chiefly with the life of Cicero in relation to his times, and with the language of the letters. Here as

everywhere the most painstaking care has been used; though as a result it reads so smoothly that a hasty reader might be in danger of overlooking the care with which it was written, were it not for the convenient references in footnotes by which every statement is supported. The view taken of Cicero's public career is consistent, appreciative but not partisan, keeping an even course between the undue adulation occasionally given to this side of his life and the more common excessive condemnation. The portion devoted to language and style is thorough and careful, and at least less useless to the average student than such summaries of individual peculiarities usually are.

The notes are well condensed, yet full enough, and seem to give precisely the help needed. Not much direct translation is given. What there is is usually very happily worded. Especially good are the introductory notes to the individual letters, which give in brief just what the student needs to be told in addition to the information already given him in the general introduction.

ARTHUR TAPPAN WALKER

UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

NOTES

AN early number of the *SCHOOL REVIEW* will contain an article on "The Decentralizing Movement in French Education," by Anna Tolman Smith, of the United States Bureau of Education."

THE Macmillan Company announce for early publication *General Physiology: an Outline of the Science of Life*; by Max Verworn, M.D., Ph.D., Professor of Physiology in the Medical Faculty of the University of Jena. Translated from the second German edition and edited by Frederic S. Lee, Ph.D., adjunct Professor of Physiology in Columbia University.

Fourteenth Holiday Conference.—The fourteenth holiday conference of Associated Academic Principals of the State of New York will be held at Syracuse, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, December 27–29, 1898. Topics of great educational importance will be discussed, and mutual acquaintance and good-fellowship will be promoted. Unusual interest attaches to the meeting of this year as the question of syllabus-revision in its various phases will be under consideration. Every principal of a secondary school and every friend of secondary education is earnestly requested to attend and share in the discussions.